
Aquatic and Riparian Effectiveness Monitoring Program & the American Conservation Experience 2014 Overview



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Background—The purpose of the Aquatic and Riparian Effectiveness Monitoring Program (AREMP) is to assess the status and trend of watershed attributes to determine if the Aquatic Conservation Strategy described in the Northwest Forest Plan is achieving its goals of maintaining and restoring the condition of watersheds on federal lands in the Pacific Northwest. AREMP has partnered with organizations that provide highly qualified interns looking to gain experience working in the field of natural resources since 2004. In 2014, AREMP worked with the American Conservation



Interns and BLM employees learn to collect benthic macroinvertebrate samples.

Experience (ACE) Program to hire interns. ACE's internship program provides recent graduates with focused, hands-on opportunities to work alongside and under the guidance of agency mentors and to apply their knowledge of resource management on actual projects and programs as they develop and emerge as the next generation of resource and land managers.

From 2004 to 2014, a total of 61 interns gained valuable experience in the field of natural resources working with AREMP. In 2014, we hired four ACE interns to work on two different projects, watershed surveys and temperature monitoring. Watershed survey crews conducted surveys in 28 watersheds across the Pacific Northwest this summer. The temperature monitoring crew deployed and downloaded

instream and air temperature monitoring sensors in 80 watersheds on Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and National Park Service lands in Oregon and Washington.

Benefits of Hiring Interns to the US Forest Service and BLM—Interns bring new ideas and energy to our agencies, and provide a way to culturally and geographically diversify our work force. The interns' commitment and work ethic results in high quality data collected for agency use, while interns gain valuable work experience. In addition, interns often return to our program in future years as seasonal employees. These returning interns provide valuable on-the-ground survey experience to our field crews.

Benefits to Interns—Interns gain valuable experience during summer internships with AREMP. Interns attend three weeks of training at the beginning of the field season, which includes topics such as safety, use of technical equipment, and how to conduct surveys. Specific training includes wilderness first aid, CPR, blood borne pathogens, use of safety devices (cell phones, satellite phones, satellite transponder devices and Forest Service radios), defensive driving, invasive species identification, how to prevent the spread of invasive species, stream channel mapping, navigation with GPS units, and use of ArcPad to enter data on field computers. In addition to valuable experience and training, interns are eligible for AmeriCorps Education awards up to \$1500 which can be used to pay education costs at qualified institutions of higher education, for educational training, or to repay qualified student loans.



Intern Taryn Peden lays out a survey transect.

ACE interns under the age of 25 are also eligible for the special Public Land Corps (PLC) non-competitive hiring status for permanent government employment with agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service. To be eligible, interns must:

- 1) Serve as a qualified youth on an appropriate conservation project completing a minimum of 640 hours of satisfactory service that included at least 120 hours through the PLC.
- 2) Meet Office of Personnel Management qualification standards and any other qualification requirement(s) stated in the vacancy announcement for the position for which you are applying.

The eligibility for non-competitive hiring status under this authority lasts 120 days after completion of the internship.

2014 ACE Interns—Temperature Monitoring Crew Intern

Andrew Robison

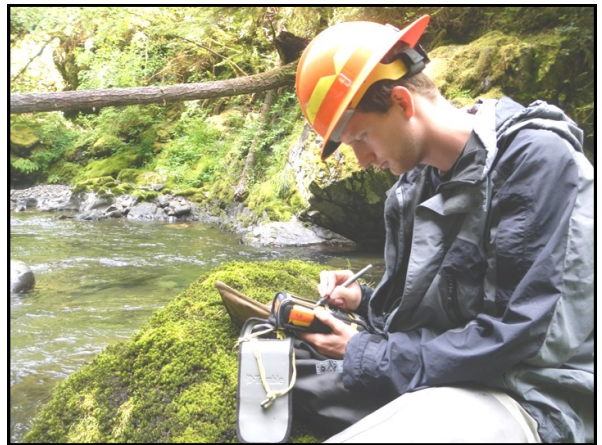
Hometown: Kentucky

Education: University of Virginia, Charlottesville
M.S. Environmental Sciences (2014)

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

B.S. Chemistry; Academic minor in Biology (2011)

The best thing about working for AREMP this summer: First and foremost, the opportunity to explore the Pacific Northwest in such an intimate setting was phenomenal - whether through the lens of wilderness adventure, natural beauty, or environmental stewardship. I felt incredibly fortunate to have a job that not only provided this experience, but at a fundamental level actually encouraged it. And secondly, the working culture of AREMP exemplified how a working environment can balance professional



Andrew enters site information into a field computer.

expectations with camaraderie and friendliness. This is evidenced by the extensive training opportunities provided to the seasonal workers (ranging from wilderness first aid to meeting the State Director of OR/WA BLM to résumé building) and also by the friendliness of the staff in making sure those of us who moved across the country felt comfortable living in Corvallis. I feel I not only learned a great deal about how a successful working environment is developed, but also feel I made some lasting relationships with the AREMP staff and my fellow seasonal workers.

2014 ACE Interns –Watershed Survey Crew Interns



Allison Del Gizzi

Hometown: Los Angeles, CA

Education: University of Colorado at Boulder

B.A. Ecological and Evolutionary Biology (2014)

The best thing about working for AREMP this summer: Getting great hands-on fieldwork experience and gaining many new applicable skills in the field of biology.

Allison uses a field computer to collect stream channel morphology information.

2014 ACE Interns –Watershed Survey Crew Interns

Tommy Laird

Hometown: Beaverton, OR

Education: Willamette University

B.S. Environmental Science, minor in Geography (2013)

The best thing about working for AREMP this summer: It's a once in a lifetime opportunity to spend a summer outdoors in the Pacific Northwest and put the skills I learned in college to use in the field. It has helped me understand what I want to pursue for a future career in conservation in the Northwest.



Tommy downloads a stream side air temperature sensor.



Taryn Peden

Hometown: High Springs, Florida

Education: Florida Gulf Coast University

B.S. Marine Science, minor in Biology (2014)

Santa Fe College

A.A. Biology (2012)

The best thing about working for AREMP this summer: Getting to truly experience the Northwest and challenge myself by being immersed in a completely different terrain and environment than what I am used to!

Taryn identifies a snake.



Contact Information

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Please visit our website for more information on publications, presentations, reports, and summer employment.
<http://www.reo.gov/monitoring/watershed-overview.shtml>

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